

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, claims 1-20 are pending. Claim 3 has been canceled. Note that claims 1, 11, and 17 are independent claims from which all other claims depend therefrom.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramakesavan (US 6,184,781) and Henley (US 5,657,073), and further in view of Akinori (JP 10175482).

Claim 1 recites a vehicle data acquisition and display assembly that includes two or more image acquisition apparatuses. The image apparatuses are disposed upon a vehicle and acquire images of an environment in which the vehicle resides. A video processing assembly receives the acquired images and in response thereto creates a mosaic image of the environment. A display is disposed within the vehicle and displays at least a portion of the mosaic. An image control assembly selects a first portion of the mosaic to be displayed. The data acquisition and display assembly monitors one or more attributes of the vehicle and in response to the attributes displays a second portion of the mosaic.

Ramakesavan discloses a rear looking vision system that utilizes three cameras to monitor a scene behind a vehicle. Multiple image frames of the scene are stitched together to form a composite image of the scene that is rearward of the vehicle.

Henley discloses an imaging system that provides a panoramic view using multiple cameras. The imaging system includes a pan-tilt-rotate-zoom controller that selects a portion of a panoramic image to be viewed.

Akinori discloses a vehicle rear view field support device. The device includes a receiving part or camera that has a point of view directed to a position rearward of a host vehicle. The device monitors a steering angle of the vehicle

and in response thereto adjusts the directed angle of the camera. The directed angle of the camera is adjusted via a drive part and a control part.

The Office Action states that Ramakesavan does not specifically teach selectively displaying a portion of an image. The Office Action also states that Ramakesavan nor Henley specifically teach causing a second portion of the mosaic to be displayed. Applicants agree on both accounts. The Office Action relies on Akinori for such teachings.

The Office Action states that Akinori discloses causing a second portion of a mosaic to be displayed in response to a vehicle attribute. Although the device of Akinori monitors the steering angle of the host vehicle, Akinori does not display a second portion of a mosaic in response to a vehicle attribute. Akinori does not generate a mosaic image through the acquisition and combination of multiple images. Akinori uses a single camera to monitor a single view to acquire a single image. Akinori also does not select portions of an image, let alone portions of a mosaic. Akinori adjusts directed position or angle of the camera to view a different area exterior to the vehicle. This is clearly different than selecting different portions of an image or mosaic. In other words, Akinori simply adjusts directed angle of a camera in response to steering angle of the vehicle. Akinori does not selectively display portions, of a mosaic image formed from the acquisition of multiple images, in response to a vehicle attribute.

Also, there is no motivation or suggestion in Ramakesavan, Henley, or Akinori to make such a combination and to modify the stated references to arrive at the assembly of claim 1. Also, no objective reason has been provided to make such combination and modifications. Ramakesavan and Akinori are directed towards rear looking vision systems of a vehicle, which provide an image of an area rearward of a vehicle, whereas, Henley is directed towards a general imaging system for acquiring panoramic views. The imaging systems of Ramakesavan and Akinori do not provide panoramic views and the imaging

system of Henley is not directed towards a vehicle application. None of the stated references alone or in combination teach or suggest displaying a second portion of a mosaic in response to a vehicle attribute. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is novel, nonobvious, and is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramakesavan, Henley, and Akinori as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Schofield et al. (US 5,949,331) and Wright et al. (US 6,161,066).

Claim 11 recites an assembly for use with a vehicle of the type having a roof. The assembly includes multiple cameras that are disposed upon the roof and that cooperatively provide images of an environment in which the vehicle resides. A display assembly selectively displays the cooperatively provided images. A controller having a touch sensitive surface upon which an icon is disposed controls selecting a first portion of the cooperatively provided images by use of the touch sensitive surface and causes the selected first portion to be displayed by the display assembly. The controller monitors one or more attributes of the vehicle and in response to the attributes displays a second portion of the images.

As established above with regards to claim 1, Ramakesavan, Henley, and Akinori fail to teach or suggest displaying a second portion of a mosaic in response to a vehicle attribute.

Schofield is directed towards display enhancements for a vehicle vision system and Wright is directed towards an emergency response system. Nowhere in Schofield is selecting a second portion of a mosaic in response to a vehicle attribute disclosed, taught, or suggested. The Office Action relies on Akinori for such teachings, which as stated above clearly fails to provide such teachings. The Office Action states that Wright also does not teach selecting another portion of an image to be viewed. Applicants agree.

Again, there is no teaching or suggestion in the five stated prior art references to make such a combination and modifications thereto to arrive at the assembly of claim 11. Thus, claim 11 is also novel, nonobvious, and is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramakesavan, Henley, and Akinori as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Okude et al. (US 6,157,342).

Claim 17 recites a method of acquiring and selectively displaying images to be viewed within a vehicle. The method includes the limitations of generating a voice command and using the voice command to select at least a portion of multiple images.

Again the Office Action relies on Akinori for the teaching of selectively displaying portions of a mosaic, which Applicants, respectfully, submit is clearly not the case. Okude discloses a navigation device that has a voice input and output device, which converts a given signal into a voice signal, recognizes voice uttered by a user, and forms a signal based thereon. Okude also does not teach or suggest selecting a portion of multiple images and does not teach or suggest selecting the portions in response to a voice command. By combining a rearward looking vision system that provides a composite image of a rearward environment of a vehicle with that of a navigation system that recognizes voice command does not allow one to arrive at the present invention.

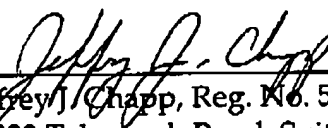
Once more, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ramakesavan, Henley, Akinori, or Okude to make such a combination and to modify the references to arrive at the method of claim 17. Thus, claim 17 is also novel, nonobvious, and is in a condition for allowance.

Ramakesavan, Henley, Akinori, Schofield, Wright, and Okude alone or in combination do not teach or suggest displaying portions of images or of a mosaic, monitoring a vehicle attribute, and displaying a second portion of the images or mosaic in response to the vehicle attribute. Also, Ramakesavan, Henley, Akinori, Schofield, Wright, and Okude alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the limitation of generating a voice command and using the voice command to select portions of the images. In addition, since the objections and rejections with regards to claims 1, 11, and 17 have been overcome and since claims 2, 4-10, 12-16, and 18-20 depend from claims 1, 11, and 17, respectively, they are also novel and nonobvious for at least the same reasons.

In light of the amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that all objections and rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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